Designer CD

Version 1.02
by
Canis Lupus

Introduction

Designer CD is a CD Audio player for Windows, providing many more features than the Multimedia Player that comes with Windows 3.1. It has a display and control panel familiar to users of real-life compact disk players, it recognizes CD's that have been used before and displays their tracks, and has a bunch of other features.

Requirements

Designer CD requires Windows 3.1 or later, a CD-ROM drive capable of playing audio CD's, an installed Windows CD driver, and a 24-bit video card is very highly recommended. It should function on lesser cards but system speek may be affected. All the files in the distribution archive **must** be present.

It also uses the font "Small Fonts", this is usually installed with Windows, so this should pose no problem.

Finally it requires the "BWCC.DLL" runtime library. If you do not have this file then check bulletin boards and Internet FTP sites, it is quite common. You may be able to find it in the same place you found Designer CD.

Usage

Designer CD works just like a real CD player. You should have no problems. Here is a quick guide:

Main Controls:

Button	Feature
Play	Unsurprisingly, plays from the current position. Click it again to pause.
Stop	Stops play, and returns to the beginning of the CD.
Skip Fwd/Bck	Skips to the next or previous track. If the CD was already playing, it continues playing from the new track, otherwise it waits ready at the new track.
Wind Fwd/Bck	Skips approximately ten seconds in the chosen direction.
Program	[A circle with a hole in it] Brings up the setup dialog box.
Play Mode	[An S-shape] Switch between Track, Shuffle and Program play.
Eject	Pops the disk out. On drives which support it, clicking the eject button while the drive is open should close it again.
Timer Mode	Switch timer mode between TRK, REM TRK, TTL and REM TTL.

TRK:	The time played so far on the current track
REM TRK:	The time left to play on the current track
TTL:	The total time played so far on the entire disk
REM TTL:	The total time left to play on the entire disk

Setup Options:

There are two sections to the Setup box.

The first controls the program's behaviour:

Option	Feature
AutoPlay	If this is enabled, Designer CD will play a CD immediately that it is run, or whenever a new CD is inserted.
Stay On Top	If this is enabled, Designer CD will float above other running applications.

The second section lets you tell Designer CD the details of the current CD. If you click OK, Designer CD will remember that CD permanently, and will recognise it if you put the disk back in again on another occasion.

Type track names into the "Current track" box and hit enter (or click on a different track entry) to store them.

You can also program your favorite track order for a CD from here. Click on the 'Play order' button and a new dialog will open with two listings. One shows all the tracks in the program, the other shows all the unused tracks. Double clicking on a track moves it back and forth between the two lists.

The two Setup options are remembered between sessions in the .INI file. The time display and the current track play mode are also remembered there, and you can also find in there a 'Gamma' setting. If Designer CD is too bright or dark on your monitor, change this number by small amounts. The default value is 1. I have it set to 1.45 because my monitor is quite dark. Experiment to find out what suits your monitor best.

Designer CD will also remember it's position on the screen in the .INI file, and reopen itself in the same place next time you use it.

Known Bugs

Designer CD will fail to make the CD drive eject if the drive door is closed but no CD is present (mistakenly thinking that no CD present means the door is already open). I guess for the moment you'll just have to make the heroic effort of reaching over and pushing the eject button. Sorry. :-}

Future Enhancements

Future versions of Designer CD may include the following features:

　　　* Designer CD may be adapted to show more of the information from the display panel when it is minimized to an icon. Currently, only the 'Information' line (Either the current track or the title of the CD) is shown, in the icon's caption.

> * Designer CD might have a 'Shrink' feature, to optionally take up less desktop space at the expense of features or the flash graphics.

Registration & Other Notes

This program is shareware. Feel free to distribute it to as many people as possible, subject to the restrictions below.

Usage:

You may use Designer CD absolutely free of charge for 30 days. After those thirty days you must either register the software or cease using it.

Registration is easy, and, for some people, free. Read on.

If you are a university student, registration is free. Email me, from your educational account (ending, for instance, .EDU or .AC.UK.), at **canis@lycanthrope.com** with the subject line DESIGNER CD REGISTRATION.

If you are a shareware author, I will consider "exchange registration". Give me free registration of an item of your software, in exchange for which you get free registration of mine. Email me and we can arrange some kind of deal

Anyone else, the amount is £10. Please send a cheque for £14 in UK Pounds Sterling, drawn on a UK bank, made payable to Matthew Rosenfeld, to:

Matthew Rosenfeld
118 High Street
Worton
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 5SE
ENGLAND.

Letterbombs returned to sender.

Finally, this program is an example of my work, both as a programmer and an artist. For more examples of my artwork see the World Wide Web URL **http://lycanthrope.com/~canis/gallery1.html**.

Registration is free to anyone who gives me a job :)

Distribution:

This program may be distributed providing that it is distributed unchanged, no charge is made and provided it is distributed alone. If you wish to distribute this with something else, for instance, in a compilation, with commercial software, or on a magazine coverdisk, you must contact me for permission. You may upload this to noncommercial bulletin boards, and any FTP site.

Other Matters:

Bug reports, suggestions, comments and other messages, please email **canis@cs.man.ac.uk** or

canis@lycanthrope.com.

This program should work just great, but, nobody's perfect. Even the operating system has bugs.

So, firstly, please inform me of any you come across. And secondly, please take care. You assume all risk for using this program. The author accepts no responsibility for any damage caused by the use of this program, including, but not limited to, nuclear armaggeddon.